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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters**

**Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during
the intersessional period**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat hereby transmits to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its work for the period 2013–2015.

* HSP/GC/25/1.

Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period

Summary

At its 56th regular meeting, held on 25 March 2015, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) adopted its report for the period 2013–2015 for submission to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for its consideration.

I. Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held the following regular meetings during the period between the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (15–19 April 2013) and the twenty-fifth session (17–23 April 2015):

- (a) Meetings held during 2013:
 - 49th regular meeting: 19 June 2013
 - 50th regular meeting: 18 September 2013
 - 51st regular meeting: 4 December 2013
- (b) Meetings held during 2014:
 - 52nd regular meeting: 19 March 2014
 - 53rd regular meeting: 18 June 2014
 - 54th regular meeting: 27 August 2014
 - 55th regular meeting: 3 December 2014

II. Members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

2. The members of the Bureau during the period 2012–2013 were as follows:

Mr. Chan-woo Kim (Republic of Korea): Chair
 Ms. Yvonne Khamati-Kilonzo (Kenya): Vice-Chair (replaced during the year by Mr. Owuor)
 Mr. George Owuor (Kenya): Vice-Chair (upon the departure of Ms. Khamati-Kilonzo)
 Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation): Vice-Chair
 Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile): Vice-Chair
 Mr. Joseph Murphy (United States of America): Rapporteur (replaced during the year by Ms. Poulton Kamakura)
 Ms. Lynette Poulton Kamakura (United States of America): Rapporteur (upon the departure of Mr. Joseph Murphy)

3. The members of the Bureau during the period 2014–2015 are as follows:

Mr. Michal Mlynar (Slovakia): Chair
 Ms. Maria Eugenia Correa (Colombia): Vice-Chair
 Mr. Sunu M. Soemarno (Indonesia): Vice-Chair
 Ms. Lynette Poulton Kamakura (United States of America): Vice-Chair (replaced during the year by Mr. Glucksman)
 Mr. Tobias Glucksman (United States of America): Vice-Chair (upon the departure of Ms. Poulton Kamakura)
 Mr. Akin Oyateru (Nigeria): Rapporteur

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2013

A. 49th regular meeting, 19 June 2013

4. At the 49th regular meeting, the Executive Director recalled the important resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session, which had, among other things, set a new course for the Programme, including new programmatic areas and priorities, focusing on strategic urbanization issues. He expressed regret that the Council had not been able to reach agreement on strengthening the Programme's governance. He emphasized the importance of the following biennium as the process for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) began. He announced that an agreement had been signed with the city of Medellín and the Government of Colombia on the hosting of the seventh session of the World Urban Forum in 2014. The secretariat also reported that the proceedings of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council had been verified, edited and translated and were available in the six official languages of the United Nations. The proposed new working methods of the Committee were introduced and discussed with a view to enhancing the efficiency of and substantive discussions in the Committee, and promoting greater engagement of its members. A key element of the new working methods was a focus on thematic activities. The quarterly financial status was presented as well as progress in the preparations for the seventh session of the World Urban Forum.

B. 50th regular meeting, 18 September 2013

5. At the 50th regular meeting, the Executive Director provided information on six key UN-Habitat activities, namely, the recently launched African Urban Agenda initiative; the second international tripartite conference on sustainable urbanization for urban poverty eradication with a special focus on slum upgrading and community empowerment that had just concluded; a conference entitled "Leading change in the city" to be held in South Africa in November 2013; the UN-Habitat senior managers retreat on strategic planning, held in September 2013; preparations for Habitat III; and work on the post-2015 development agenda. The secretariat provided a briefing on its preparations for the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, including special events and the draft report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to be considered by the General Assembly. The secretariat presented the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat and shared its six-monthly country activities report with a focus on activities in Somalia. Progress on the preparations for the seventh session of the World Urban Forum was also presented. The Committee further reviewed the Committee's proposed working methods, whose adoption was deferred to the 51st regular meeting of the Committee.

C. 51st regular meeting, 4 December 2013

6. The 51st regular meeting saw the election of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the biennium 2014–2015. Several representatives expressed condolences to the Government and people of the Philippines for the loss of life and damage inflicted by the recent typhoon. The Committee adopted the document "Proposed working methods of the Committee of Permanent Representatives" and the work schedule for the Committee for 2014. The Executive Director provided a briefing on the successful presidential breakfast consultation on the African Urban Agenda, held in New York on 25 September 2013; the global celebration of World Habitat Day on 7 October 2013; and official missions to Haiti and Myanmar. He reported on the second meeting of the inter-agency coordinating committee on Habitat III, held in New York on 27 November 2013, and announced that the Habitat III Trust Fund was now operational. He highlighted the secretariat's consultations with the Committee on the UN-Habitat proposal for a stand-alone sustainable development goal under the post-2015 development agenda discussions. He reported on developments at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, at which consensus had been reached in the Second Committee on the text of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (A/68/332). The secretariat provided a briefing on progress in preparing for the seventh session of the World Urban Forum and presented a report entitled "Report to the CPR on the implementation of the MDG targets related to UN-Habitat (slums and water and sanitation): accelerating progress and advancing the post-2015 development agenda." The Chair of the subcommittee on policy and programme of work drew attention to the report on the draft strategic framework for 2016–2017 and to the revised draft strategic framework. The Committee approved the

draft strategic framework for onward transmission to the United Nations Secretariat for further consideration.

IV. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2014

A. 52nd regular meeting, 19 March 2014

7. At the 52nd regular meeting, the Executive Director provided a briefing on the resolutions of the General Assembly of relevance to UN-Habitat, specifically the allocation of funds for 2014–2015 from the United Nations regular budget to UN-Habitat for the preparatory process of Habitat III; creating the Habitat III trust fund, approving the Strategic Plan for 2014–2019; establishing “World Cities Day” on 31 October and encouraging the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue its consideration of proposals on how to proceed with the governance review of UN-Habitat. He highlighted the outcomes of the fifth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), held in N’Djamena in February 2014, which reflected the political will to develop an African Urban Agenda. He presented the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat and noted that the Programme had continued to align its expenditures with projected income. The secretariat presented an overview of the annual progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2013, which was the fourteenth and final report on the implementation of the plan from 2008 to 2013, capturing the cumulative progress made towards achieving the expected accomplishments of the plan. The six-monthly report on country activities for the period from September 2013 to March 2014 was also presented as well as progress in preparations for the seventh session of the World Urban Forum. The Vice-Chair of the Committee introduced the report on the work of the subcommittees. The Chair informed members that the new format of the meetings of the subcommittees had been very productive, with a focus on two subcommittees, one on policy and programme of work and the other on finance and administration.

B. 53rd regular meeting, 18 June 2014

8. At the 53rd regular meeting, the Executive Director highlighted the progress made in the preparations for Habitat III; the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, in particular the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Goals which had proposed 17 goals; the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, to be held in New York in September 2014, in which UN-Habitat had been requested to prepare specific deliverables on urbanization; the participation of UN-Habitat in the Abu Dhabi Ascent, a high-level meeting held in Abu Dhabi from 4 to 6 May 2014 in support of the Summit. He provided an overview of the first integration segment of the Economic and Social Council held at United Nations Headquarters from 27 to 29 May 2014 with a theme of “Sustainable urbanization” and he highlighted the increasing recognition of cities in economic, social and environmental development and the consequent enhanced visibility of UN-Habitat. He presented the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat, which described the financial challenges facing the Programme. A presentation was given on UN-Habitat humanitarian response work with a particular focus on the Philippines. A report on the work of the subcommittees was also introduced.

C. 54th regular meeting, 27 August 2014

9. At the 54th meeting, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the Executive Director of UN-Habitat on his reappointment to the position by the General Assembly for a second term from October 2014 to December 2017. The Executive Director provided a briefing on efforts to reach out to partners and donors; preparations for Habitat III; preparations for the first session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III, to be held in New York in September 2014; support provided by the Government of Indonesia for regional and global preparations for Habitat III; UN-Habitat consultations with development partners in Brussels in July 2014; and the approval of the final draft text of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which included a goal on urbanization. He also highlighted the twenty-third general assembly of the Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in August 2014, and the preparations for the Climate Summit. He presented the quarterly financial report, highlighting areas in which UN-Habitat was ahead of its financial targets and those for which it lagged behind the 2014 goals. In his capacity as Secretary-General of Habitat III, the Executive Director provided an additional detailed briefing on Habitat III in which he touched on funding, support for the Conference by other United Nations entities, the Habitat III secretariat and the participation of the civil society, among other things. The country presentation focused on UN-Habitat work in the Darfur region of the Sudan. The Executive Director drew attention to the

preparations for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council and the important role of the Committee in that regard. The Chair introduced the report on the work of the subcommittees.

D. 55th regular meeting, 3 December 2014

10. At the 55th regular meeting, Mr. Tobias Glucksman (United States of America) was elected as Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Committee for the remainder of the biennium 2014–2015, replacing Ms. Lynette Poulton Kamakura who had left the duty station. The Executive Director and members expressed condolences to the Government and people of Kenya in connection with the recent terrorist attacks in the country. The Executive Director provided a briefing on the first session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, held in New York in September 2014; the role of UN-Habitat in the Secretary-General's Climate Summit; the success of the Urban October campaign; and the fifth meeting of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in Seoul from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which agreement had been reached on the Seoul Declaration and the Seoul Implementation Plan. He noted the commitments made by the Government of India to host the sixth meeting of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in 2016, the Government of Malaysia to host the ninth session of the World Urban Forum in 2018, and the Government of Indonesia to host the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III. He welcomed the strengthened commitment and involvement of the Asia and the Pacific region in the work of UN-Habitat and in the preparations for Habitat III. He provided an overview of missions he had undertaken to France, India and the United States of America, which had focused on a range of topics, including resource mobilization. He expressed appreciation to the Government of Germany for resuming its support to non-earmarked funding of the Programme with a contribution of \$1 million and he thanked several countries which had remitted their annual voluntary contributions as well as earmarked funding. Presenting the quarterly financial report, he noted that the core income forecast for 2014 amounted to \$28.9 million and the high level of earmarked contributions to UN-Habitat normative and technical cooperation work had been maintained. The Chair introduced the report on the work of the subcommittees. The country activities report for June–December 2014 was presented and the thematic/country presentation focused on UN-Habitat activities in Colombia.

V. Subcommittees of the Committee of Permanent Representatives 2013–2015

11. The following subcommittees were established by the Bureau of the Committee on 21 January 2014, following the approval of the proposed new working methods at the 51st regular meeting of the Committee held 4 December 2013:

A. Subcommittee I on finance and administration

12. The subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Akin Oyateru (Nigeria), was tasked with:

- (a) Considering the budgetary, financial and administrative issues of UN-Habitat;
- (b) Engaging with member States in meeting the challenge of building a financially secure and operationally effective Programme;
- (c) Dealing with any other matters referred to it by the Committee, including the provision of guidance and support to the secretariat in relation to resource mobilization.

B. Subcommittee II on policy and programme of work

13. The subcommittee was tasked with:

- (a) Reviewing progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2014–2019 and reviewing the Plan under the chairmanship of Ms. Poulton Kamakura (United States of America) and subsequently, upon her departure, by Mr. Glucksman;
- (b) Reviewing the strategic framework for 2016–2017 under the chairmanship of Ms. Poulton Kamakura (United States of America) and subsequently, upon her departure, by Mr. Glucksman (United States of America);
- (c) Reviewing the programme of work, including the status of implementation of resolutions of the Governing Council and discussions on the seven subprogrammes of UN-Habitat under the chairmanship of Mr. Sunu M. Soemarno (Indonesia);

(d) Preparing for sessions of the Governing Council, meetings of regional ministerial conferences, including AMCHUD and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD), and sessions of the World Urban Forum under the chairmanship of Ms. María Eugenia Correa (Colombia);

(e) Considering sustainable development issues, including the post-2015 development agenda, the sustainable development goals and Habitat III, under the chairmanship of Mr. Michal Mlynar (Slovakia).

14. The draft resolutions prepared by the Committee for the consideration of the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session are contained in document HSP/GC/25/3/Add.1.
